REMARKS:

1) Entry and consideration of the present amendments and remarks after Final are respectfully requested. New grounds of rejection applying a new reference were asserted for the first time in the Final Office Action. This is applicant's first opportunity to respond to the new grounds of rejection and the new reference. The present amendments and remarks are all directly responsive to the issues raised for the first time in the Final Office Action, and do not raise any new issues that would require further search or consideration. Thus, entry and consideration of the present Response After Final is appropriate.

2) The claims have been amended as follows.

Independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the nickel-tungsten alloy of the coating layer contains more than 20 wt.% and less than 44 wt.% of tungsten. This is merely a narrower limitation of and within the originally claimed range of tungsten content. The full range of tungsten content is supported by the original disclosure (see e.g. page 3, line 26; page 4, line 8 to page 5, line 3; Table 1 on page 8; Table 2 on page 9; etc.). Accordingly, the presently claimed narrower limited portion of the originally disclosed full range does not introduce any new matter.

New independent claim 12 has been added, based on a combination of the subject matter of prior claims 1 and 5. New claims 13 to 15 depend from claim 12 and are based on the subject

matter of claims 6 to 8. These combined claims do not introduce any new matter.

New independent claim 16 is directed to a combination of an electronic component and a resin material received in a die cavity of a die used for sealing and molding the electronic component with the resin material. Claim 16 further particularly incorporates the features of prior claim 1. Thus, new claim 16 is supported by prior claim 1 as well as the original disclosure of Figs. 1 and 2 and all of the original written description. New claim 16 does not introduce any new matter.

Entry and consideration of the claim amendments and the new claims are respectfully requested.

3) Referring to section 4) on pages 2 to 3 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5 to 8 is appreciated. New independent claim 12 is based on a combination of prior claims 1 and 5, and should thus be allowable together with the new claims 13 to 15 depending therefrom.

4) Referring to section 2) on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1 and 9 to 11 as anticipated by JP 58-212840 is respectfully traversed.

Both of the rejected independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite that the nickel-tungsten alloy forming the coating layer contains **more than** 20 wt.% of tungsten.

JP 58-212840 discloses a casting mold for continuously casting an ingot, wherein the mold has a surface coating layer of a nickel-tungsten alloy consisting of 2 to 20 wt.% of tungsten

and the balance of nickel. Thus, the uppermost limit of tungsten content disclosed by the reference extends up to a **maximum of only** 20 wt.%.

In comparison to the reference, present independent claims 1 and 10 are expressly limited to tungsten contents of **more than** 20 wt.% in the nickel-tungsten alloy forming the coating layer. The present application teaches that it is desirable to provide tungsten contents above 20 wt.% (see e.g. page 4, line 8 to page 5, line 3, and Tables 1 and 2 on pages 8 and 9). The JP 58-212840 reference does not disclose and would not have suggested such a nickel-tungsten coating layer as presently claimed, with a tungsten content of more than 20% by wt.

For the above reasons, independent claims 1 and 10 are not anticipated by, and would not have been obvious from, the teachings of the reference. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1 and 9 to 11 as anticipated by JP 58-212840.

5) Referring to section 3) on page 2 of the Office Action, the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 10 as anticipated by JP 10-202698 is respectfully traversed.

The rejected independent claims 1 and 10 have both been amended to recite that the tungsten-nickel alloy has a tungsten content of **less than** 44 wt.%.

JP 10-202698 discloses a mold for injection molding a plastic pipe coupling or the like, wherein the mold comprises a coating layer of a tungsten nickel alloy with a tungsten content of **at least** 44% and up to 60% of tungsten.

Thus, the lower limit of tungsten content disclosed by JP 10-202698 (namely **at least 44%**) is greater than the maximum limit recited in present claims 1 and 10 (namely **less than 44 wt.%**). There is no disclosed overlap of the ranges. Also, since the tungsten content range disclosed by the reference lies completely and significantly above the range recited in present claims 1 and 10, there would have been no suggestion toward varying the prior art range to values in the presently claimed lower range. The prior art would have suggested no reasons or benefits for doing so.

For the above reasons, the respective invention of present claims 1 and 10 is not anticipated by, and would not have been obvious from, the disclosure of JP 10-202698. The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 4 and 10 as anticipated by this reference.

6) As mentioned above, new independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 13 to 15 should be allowable in view of the indication of allowable subject matter in the combination of prior claims 1 and 5.

7) Further new independent claim 16 is directed to a **combination** of a **molding die** together with an **electronic component** and a **resin material** in a **die cavity** of the molding die.

Claim 16 is not directed to a general molding die by itself, but rather the electronic component and the resin material are necessary parts of the claimed combination. The references of record do not disclose and would not have suggested such a

combination of an electronic component and a resin material in a die cavity of a molding die that is used to seal and mold the electronic component with the resin material, whereby the die has a coating layer formed of a nickel-tungsten alloy with a defined composition.

JP 58-212840 relates to a casting mold for continuously casting an ingot, and suggests nothing about a resin molding die in combination with a resin material and an electronic component in a die cavity of the molding die. There also would have been no suggestion from JP 58-212840 that a nickel-tungsten alloy coating layer would be suitable for use in a combination of a molding die with an electronic component and a resin material received in a die cavity of the molding die.

JP 10-202698 discloses a mold for injection molding a plastic pipe coupling or the like. JP 10-202698 does not disclose or suggest anything about a combination of a molding die with an electronic component and a resin material in a die cavity of the die. The reference also would not have suggested that the particular composition of a nickel-tungsten alloy would have been suitable for use in the presently claimed combination.

For these reasons, new independent claim 16 is patentably distinguishable over the prior art.

8) The additional prior art made of record requires no particular comments because it has not been applied against the claims.

9) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1 and 4 to 16, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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WFF:ar/4029

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (703) 872-9311 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

_____ 5/30/03
Name: Walter F. Fasse - Date: May 30, 2003